

## ABSTRACT

This invention relates to a method of treating ischemic or diseased myocardium by  
5 injecting a therapeutic agent, such as a gene, protein, cell or drug, into normal myocardium,  
preferably adjacent to an ischemic zone in the heart of a subject. The method is useful for  
inducing angiogenesis and collateral blood vessel formation to improve cardiac function in  
subjects with ischemic heart disease. The method can also be used to promote tissue  
regeneration in such subjects.